

JOURNAL
II
OF
THE PROCEEDINGS
OF
MISS. P'
A SPECIAL CONVENTION

OF THE
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
DIOCESE OF MISSISSIPPI;

HELD AT THE CITY OF VICKSBURG,

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1846.

JACKSON:
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1846.



JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS.

CITY OF VICKSBURG,
Thursday, May 7, 1846. {

This day, being the day appointed by the Bishop for the meeting of the Special Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in the Diocese of Mississippi, and several of the clergy and laity being assembled, the Right Rev. Bishop Otey, called the assembly to order, and nominated the Rev. F. W. Boyd, Secretary *pro tem.*; when the roll furnished by the Bishop, of clergymen entitled to seats in the Convention, was read as follows, to-wit:

Rev. F. W. Boyd;

- " N. W. Camp, D. D., Missionary at Yazoo City ;
- " D. H. Deacon, Rector St. Mary's church, Laurel Hill;
- " J. S. Greene, Missionary at Mississippi City ;
- " W. F. Halsey, Rector St. Paul's church, Columbus ;
- " A. Matthews, Missionary in DeSoto county ;
- " A. P. Merrill, Missionary at Port Gibson ;
- " D. C. Page, D. D., Rector of Christ church, Holly Springs ;
- " S. Patterson, Rector of Christ church, Vicksburg :
- " W. Presbury, Missionary in Washington county.

LIST OF OTHER CLERGYMEN BELONGING TO THE DIOCESE,
BUT NOT ENTITLED TO SEATS :

- Rev. A. Cleaver, residing in Jackson ;
- " J. A. Fox, residing in Louisiana ;
- " W. M. Giles, (Deacon,) Missionary at Washington and Woodville ;

Rev. W. T. Leacock, residing in Kentucky;
 " S. Wall, (Deacon,) residing in Louisiana;
 " D. F. Wright, (Deacon,) residing in Holly Springs ;
 " Willie Peck, officiating in Trinity church, Natchez.

PARISHES IN UNION WITH THE CONVENTION :

St. Paul's church, Woodville ;
 St. Mary's church, Laurel Hill ;
 Trinity church, Natchez ;
 Christ church, Jefferson county ;
 Church of Epiphany, Claiborne county ;
 Christ church, Vicksburg ;
 St. Andrew's church, Jackson ;
 St. Paul's church, Columbus ;
 St. Andrew's church, Marshall county ;
 Christ church, Holly Springs :
 St. John's church, Pontotoc ;
 St. Paul's church, Grand Gulf.

Lay delegates then presented credentials from the following Parishes :

From St. Paul's church, Woodville—Isaac W. Crane, D. H. Prosser.

" Trinity church, Natchez—Edward Turner, Geo. W. Turner, Geo. Winchester.
 " Church of the Epiphany, Claiborne county—Edw. H. Stiles, M. D. and Edw. A. McCaleb.
 " Christ church, Vicksburg—Geo. S. Yerger, B. S. Tappan, W. A. Lake.
 " St. Andrew's church, Jackson—Charles A. Bradford.
 " St. John's church, Pontotoc—Edward Fontaine ;
 who answered to their names.

Two clergymen, entitled to seats, being present, and delegates from six parishes, the Convention was declared to be duly organized, and competent to transact business.

On motion, duly made and seconded, the Rt. Rev. B. B.

Smith, D. D., of Kentucky, being present, was invited to attend the meetings of this Convention ; and a place was assigned him in the chancel on the right of the President.

On motion, other clergymen of the church present, and not entitled to seats, were invited to attend the deliberations of the Convention.

The rules of order of a former Convention, were then read and adopted, as the rules of order for this Convention.

On motion, the Convention adjourned until 4 o'clock, p. m.

4 o'CLOCK, P. M.

The Convention was called to order by the Bishop, and the roll called by the Secretary, whereupon the Rev. N. W. Camp, D. D., of Yazoo City, appeared and answered to his name ; P. M. Grant, Esq., from Columbus, presented his credential as a lay delegate from St. Paul's church, and took his seat ; Hon. Robt. Hughes and Thos. Palmer, appeared as delegates from St. Andrew's church, Jackson, and answered to their names.

On motion, a committee, consisting of Rev. M. Halsey, Judges Turner and Winchester, was appointed, to consider the application of newly organized parishes for union with this Convention, and papers from Yazoo City were handed to them.

On motion, duly made and seconded, it was decided that this Convention be declared competent to transact all and any business which would properly have fallen to the regular Annual Convention, had one been duly convened.

The committee on new churches, reported that the proceedings had in Yazoo City, contemplating the organization of a church in that place, were substantially in accordance with the canon, and submitted a motion, that Trinity church, Yazoo City, be received into connexion with this Diocese ; which motion being seconded, was adopted.

On motion, duly made and seconded, a committee was appointed to consider the claim of the Rev. F. W. Boyd, to a

seat and vote in this Convention, his name having been placed by the Bishop among those not so entitled.

The Bishop appointed the Rev. Mr. Presbury, Dr. Stiles, and Mr. Ewing, the committee.

Mr. Boyd obtained leave to retire with the committee, and Gen. B. S. Tappan was appointed Secretary *pro tem.*, in his stead.

The committee returned and reported, unanimously, that the Rev. F. W. Boyd has a right to a seat and vote in this Convention.

On motion to accept the report, some discussion took place as to the true and proper construction of the article in the constitution affecting the case.

A motion was made and seconded, to postpone the further consideration of the subject until the morning, which motion, after discussion, was lost.

A motion was made and seconded, that the Rev. F. W. Boyd be allowed to address the Convention in explanation; which motion prevailed.

After further discussion, the original motion to accept the report, was put, and decided in the affirmative.

The amendment of the 7th article of the constitution, which was proposed in the Convention of 1844, was then called up for final action, but it appearing that the committee to whom had been committed the subject of a revision of the constitution and canons, was not present to report, the whole subject was, by consent, withdrawn.

On motion, the Convention then adjourned, to meet at 8 o'clock, A. M., to-morrow.

FRIDAY MORNING, May 8, 1846.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Prayers were read by the Bishop. The minutes of yesterday were also read and approved.

The roll having been called, delegates appeared from St. Paul's church, Grand Gulf; Christ church, Jefferson county;

St. Mary's church, Laurel Hill. The following clergymen also appeared and took their seats, viz: Rev. D. H. Deacon, A. P. Merrill, and Wm. M. Giles.

The Bishop read his Annual Address to the Convention, which was as follows:

BRETHREN OF THE CLERGY AND LAITY:

The Convention of the Church in this Diocese having failed to meet last year for want of a constitutional quorum, it results that we have before us at this time, the business of two whole years to transact. In compliance with canonical provisions, I proceed to report to you the services and duties in which I have been engaged as Provisional Bishop of the Diocese, and to call your attention to such other matters of interest as may seem to claim your attention. To this end, I beg leave to refer to my report made last year, and intended to be laid before the Convention which was then expected to meet, and I desire that that report be read by the Secretary, and be made a part of this communication on the printed journal of your proceedings.

To the members of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Mississippi, assembled at Jackson, Mi., May 8, A. D. 1845 :

BRETHREN OF THE CLERGY AND LAITY—

Your Convention, by appointment, meets this year on the 8th day of May; and the Convention of the church in Tennessee meets also, by appointment, on the 7th of the same month. For two years successively, I used the authority allowed me by your constitution and canons, to alter the times of the assembling of your Convention, in order that I might be able to meet the Conventions of both the Dioceses of which I have charge. The proceedings of your body last year in electing a Bishop, led very naturally to the conclusion that my presence among you would not be again called for, and consequently all my arrangements for many months past, have been made in the expectation of not being present in

your Convention this year. The duty which I owe to the Diocese of Tennessee to be present at her Convention, would prevent my meeting with you, if no other duties and engagements interfered. It did not seem to me that there existed any sufficient reason to change the time of meeting of either Convention the present year, and hence no notice has been given to that effect.

But though necessarily absent from you, brethren, I trust I shall be with you in spirit, in ardent desires and fervent prayers for the prosperity of that church which we all love, and in the expression of the hope that her glorious sway may be still more and more extended to the overthrow of sin and misery among men, and the establishment of righteousness and peace over all the earth. These meetings of brethren, united as we should be, and as I believe we are in your Diocese, "in the same mind and in the same judgment," upon all matters affecting the interests of our communion, are always occasions of the purest joy and satisfaction, and I feel that in staying away from your assembly, I am denying myself one of the highest pleasures it is permitted man to enjoy here below.

It gives me much pleasure to know that whatever duties belonging peculiarly to the office of a Bishop, which may be required by the Convention, will be discharged by my Rt. Rev. Brother, the Missionary Bishop of Arkansas, &c. He has kindly yielded to my request to visit such of the churches as he can in the short time which he has at his disposal, and to be present with you in Convention. I feel every confidence that I could not have committed your affairs to abler or more faithful hands. I know you will receive him as a "messenger of the church and an Apostle of Christ," and for his own sake, no less than mine, you will "hold him in reputation."

My report to the last Convention, brought the detail of my official services as Provisional Bishop of Mississippi, down to

the 4th of last May. On the evening of that day, I confirmed at Jackson, *seventeen* persons.

On Sunday, the 5th day of May, morning prayer was said by Dr. Hawks, after which, I preached and celebrated the Lord's supper, with the assistance of the clergy present. About sixty persons presented themselves to receive the symbols of the broken body and shed blood of Him who died for the sins of the world. At night, after sermon by Dr. Hawks, I confirmed *four* persons.

In the morning, I baptized two infant children, *Syme*, and *Wm. Alexander*, sons of Mr. Cabell and his wife, Elvira A. E. Cabell. I have performed no Episcopal services in Mississippi since that time, having been engaged for much the greater portion of the period since in matters connected with the general interests of our whole communion, and which made it necessary for me to spend four or five months from home.

It is doubtless known to every member of your body that the effort to complete the ecclesiastical organization of the Diocese, by the election of the Rev. Dr. Hawks to the Episcopate, failed in consequence of objections raised against that distinguished individual in the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies of the General Convention. These objections involved charges of a serious character, affecting the integrity and moral standing of the Rev. Dr. H. An opportunity was given to him to meet and reply to these charges, which he did in a way so satisfactory to the House of Deputies, that they passed a resolution to this effect:

"That in the opinion of this House, the integrity of the Rev. Dr. Hawks has been satisfactorily vindicated, in his reply and proofs in relation to the charge brought against him in the memorial presented to this House."

The following resolutions were subsequently passed, viz:

"Resolved, That in the opinion of this House, all proceedings respecting the consecration of the Rev. Francis L. Hawks, D. D., ought to be suspended, until a future Conven-

tion of the Diocese of Mississippi shall declare their sense of the subject.

"*Resolved*, That all the documents now before this House relating to the same, be delivered to the Deputies from Mississippi, to be laid before the Convention of the Diocese of Mississippi."—(Jour. Gen. Conv. pp. 71 and 72.

The documents above referred to having been placed in the hands of the Mississippi delegation, and also addressed to the President of the Standing Committee, with a view to their being brought before the notice of your Convention, I deem it unnecessary to remark upon their character or tenor. The Rev. Dr. Hawks has since been transferred to the Diocese of Louisiana, and it is understood that he left Mississippi with the determination not to permit his name again to be brought forward for the office of Bishop in your Diocese.

It is for your body in its wisdom to decide what action, if any, it will take in the premises. I shall be pardoned, I hope, for expressing the opinion that the final action of the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies was a shrinking from a responsibility which was fairly devolved upon it—or perhaps it would be more charitable and equally just to say, that it was to get rid of a troublesome and annoying subject, and to throw back responsibility upon others, who were more deeply interested in the election of Dr. Hawks, than the members of that House, but whose opportunities for examining into the particular objections raised against him, were necessarily limited and imperfect. *There* was the place, and *then* was the time, where and when a full and final decision should have been made about this matter. The Diocese of Mississippi might elect to the Episcopate time and again, under the same circumstances, and the election must of necessity be confirmed by the House of Deputies, or by those bodies which represent them for this purpose, in the recess of the General Convention, viz: the Standing Committee. The course of the House was objectionable, I think, because the constitution and canons do not provide for any such course of proceeding,

and because especially such course of action is calculated to embarrass and dishearten a weak and infant Diocese.

Of the wants of the Diocese in regard to Episcopal supervision, I presume that there exists among us but one sentiment, and that is, that you should have a resident Bishop at the earliest practicable moment. The history of all our Dioceses, I believe, shows that direct and immediate Episcopal supervision is necessary to their growth and vigor, and that wherever this has been secured, there has been witnessed an increase in the number, union and piety of our members. My views and wishes upon this subject, are too well known, and have been too frequently expressed, publicly and privately, to need repetition. But I feel more solicitous upon the subject now, from a conviction pressing upon me every day, that my engagements and necessary duties at home will not allow me to devote to the visitation of Mississippi, even the small portion of time which I have hitherto given to that object. Trusting, then, that you can be united in your choice of a suitable person, and that you will be able to provide for his comfortable support, that he may work much and vigorously, I earnestly recommend the measure. Yet, while thus exhorting you to a good work, suffer me to interpose a word of friendly, yea, paternal caution. The events of the last year, in the history of our church, emphatically admonish us to be more than ordinarily prudent and circumspect in the choice of persons whom we select for the high and holy office of a Bishop. Too rigid a scrutiny as to soundness in faith, purity of moral character, and firmness of purpose to live a holy and godly life, in all righteousness and good conversation before God and men, cannot be instituted in reference to any individual who may be proposed to you, and who, by your action, is to be intrusted with the dearest and most valuable interests ever committed to the guardianship of any mortal. Those only who are invested with this office, sufficiently realize its difficulties and its responsibilities, and by the constantly recurring sense of their failure in duty—of

their imperfections and weaknesses, are led to consider, more than other men, how much faith, and zeal, and charity, and diligence, and prudence, and devotion of heart, and knowledge, and wisdom, are requisite in order to the creditable and useful discharge of its functions. When you have found the individual who combines all the required, or at least, all the necessary qualifications, then place him in circumstances enabling him to fulfil his ministry with efficiency and comfort. Do not let the reproach come upon your Diocese of calling one to serve you, and then leave him to the dole of compassion and charity, and to the fruits of some secular pursuit for the supply of his necessary wants. The great Lord of the harvest, the ever blessed head of the church, hath said, "the laborer is worthy of his hire." Let the provision you make for the support of the Episcopate be liberal—let it show that you reverence the saying of our Divine Master, and you will assuredly reap a full and rich reward in the abundant and successful labors of him who shall be "over you in the Lord." Most earnestly do I beseech God our Heavenly Father to guide and direct you in this most important matter.

The changes which have taken place in the Diocese since my last address, as these respect the residence of clergymen, are as follows: The Rev. Dr. Hawks has taken dimissory letters to the Bishop of Louisiana, and becomes the Rector, as it is understood, of Christ Church, New Orleans. The congregation of Christ Church, Holly Springs, I learn, though not officially, is without a pastor. I have heard that the Rev. Mr. Foster, who was instituted Rector, had resigned his pastoral charge and engaged in teaching, having under his care a large and interesting female school. It appears to me that, in the case of the resignation of parishes, the Bishop, or Standing Committee of the Diocese should, in every instance, be officially advised of that fact, by the Secretary, Warden, or some Vestryman of the Parish. Such is the usual practice, and it would be proper, I think, that you

should have a canon to that effect; otherwise, it will often happen that it will be difficult to know who are members of the Convention, or invested with all the rights and privileges of parochial and diocesan residence.

The Rev. Dr. Killikelly has taken letters of dimission to Bishop Kemper, and retired from the station at Grand Gulf. The Rev. Wm. T. Leacock, whom I reported as transferred to the Diocese of Mississippi, and who had taken charge of a congregation formed near Lake Washington, in Washington county, has, I learn, removed from Mississippi, and settled in charge of a school near Louisville, Ky. I have received no communication from him, and know not what his wishes may be in regard to a change of his canonical residence. I still consider him as a clergyman of Mississippi.

The Rev. A. P. Merrill has been appointed missionary to the slave population in the neighborhood of Port Gibson, and I learn from himself, is laboring with encouraging indications and fruits of usefulness. Mr. Merrill has intimated a readiness to divide his labors between Grand Gulf, Port Gibson, and his present charge. However praiseworthy the promptings of his zeal to widen the sphere of his ministerial labors, I have not deemed it advisable to authorize any change in his services, or to direct him to go to any other than those to whom he has been sent. The missionary appropriation in his case, was for the special benefit of the negroes, and it seems, therefore, that as long as he draws upon that fund, his services on Sunday, at least, should be devoted to the slaves. It must be matter of rejoicing to us all that his services have proved so acceptable, and, as I judge, so profitable to this interesting portion of our population.

I have recently, at the request of the Vestry of St. Andrew's church, near Salem, in Marshall county, appointed the Rev. Mr. Litton, of the Diocese of Tennessee, missionary to the station. He will officiate monthly. It appears to be the most convenient, if not the only arrangement, which can be made at present for the supply of that congregation. The Rev.

Mr. Crane has resigned the Parish of St. Paul's, at Woodville, and accepted a call to the charge of Trinity church, Clarksville, Tenn. The congregation at Woodville, you are aware, probably, was afflicted during the last summer and fall with a grievous and fatal sickness. Besides the loss of many of its most valuable members by death, it has been, or is likely soon to be, further weakened by the removal of some of the most efficient supporters of the church; so that the prospects of this old and interesting Parish, are indeed gloomy. In man's extremity is the Lord's time to help; and to Him must we look to stir up the spirit of some faithful minister, who will come as a messenger of consolation, to restore the desolations of this Parish.

The Rev. Andrew Matthews has recently requested to be re-appointed missionary at Hernando and neighborhood. Expecting that the oversight of the Diocese would soon pass into other hands, and not understanding that there was much reason to encourage one to effort in that quarter, I deemed it most proper to defer any action in the premises, and leave the whole matter to the decision of him who is to succeed me. I have heard that the Rev. Mr. Presbury was laboring with encouraging prospects of success at Yazoo City, and the Rev. Mr. Fish, at Christ church, Jefferson county. No communication from these brethren, nor from any other quarter, has notified me of their wish or intention to become canonically resident in Mississippi.

It is with great sorrow of heart that I report to you the decease of our Rev. Brother, Mr. John Henshaw, who had been laboring for nearly a year past in the neighborhood of Macon, in the eastern part of the Diocese. His removal was sudden, and attended by distressing circumstances. On Sunday, the 30th of March, he had preached at, or near a place called Brooklyn, some ten or twelve miles from Macon. The next day, returning to Macon, he had to cross a small stream which had been swollen by recent rains. Entering the creek at an unfavorable or difficult ford, and alone, it is supposed

that he was by some mishap thrown from his horse, and being lame, was unable to make the shore. Several hours elapsed before any suspicions were excited as to his safety. After diligent search, his body was found the next day, near to the spot where it is supposed he was thrown from his horse, and decently interred ; and, no doubt, his grave was watered by the tears of some whom he had striven to lead in the way to Heaven. With little to attract the admiring gaze of the world, unaffectedly modest in his deportment, and simple as a child in his manners, he was, nevertheless, a deeply pious and devoted servant of Christ. He was most anxious to be instrumental in saving the souls of men, and he was willing to make any sacrifice of personal ease and comfort, and to submit to almost any mortification, in order that he might teach men to know God and Jesus Christ whom God hath sent. For nearly a year past, he had exercised his ministry under circumstances of discouragement—such as the neglect or indifference of those for whose spiritual benefit he was expending his time and strength—that fall to the lot of few men. This minister of God could find no place at which to board, except a tavern, among those to whom he came to proclaim the grace of that Master who, though he was rich, became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich ; and often when he had prepared out of his treasures things both new and old for those invited to the gospel feast, has he been pained and mortified to find only two or three present. The multitude had gone after some loud and self-confident and self-constituted teacher—some proclaimer of a new faith—some declaimer against all sects, and the unblushing advocate of his own system, as the truth of God and the unerring way to Heaven. The trials and mortifications of our brother are over ; he has finished his course in faith, and doubtless entered upon his reward, through the mercy and grace of that blessed Redeemer who called him to work in his church, and has now summoned him to higher duties in his kingdom of glory.

I beg leave once more most earnestly to urge upon the attention of every member of the Convention, and through the Convention upon the whole Diocese, the duty of making stated and liberal contributions in aid of our missionary work. We must be criminally insensible and indifferent, as well to the claims of others as to the calls of duty, if we give no heed to the earnest and urgent appeals which have been repeatedly made to us upon the subject. I fear that our brethren of the clergy are blameworthy in this matter in not calling the attention of the people to this duty, and thereby affording them the *opportunity*, as they ought to regard it a *privilege*, to give in this noble cause. It cannot be there is want of ability on the part of our lay brethren ; " for if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." Let us give of our ability as God hath prospered us—nothing more is asked,—any thing more than this, would be transcending the limits of duty. We should remember, too, that the Diocese has partaken largely of the benefactions of the church, and we should, at least, show our gratitude by now endeavoring to help ourselves—by striving to aid the church in her efforts to send the ministry to all our waste and destitute places. If this work were but industriously prosecuted in each Parish, I have not a doubt that every year enough would be realised to double annually the missionaries employed in the Diocese for some five or six years to come ; and what a glorious result this would be to accomplish—how creditable to the liberality of the Diocese, and how acceptable, we may believe, to God ! Brethren, let us no longer give occasion for reproach in this matter. Let us do our duty, and then we may look for God's blessing.

The only candidate belonging to this Diocese is, with my permission, prosecuting his studies at one of our Theological Seminaries. The individual referred to is Mr. Wm. Giles, who will in due time present himself for orders, and will, I trust, prove an able and efficient co-worker with us, in the

large and interesting field which Divine Providence has assigned to us for cultivation.

I deem it unnecessary to detain you by any remarks upon the proceedings of the late General Convention, in which the Diocese was ably represented. Its acts have been spread upon its published journal, which is open to the inspection of all.

The 6th canon of the late General Convention, entitled, "Of a discretion to be allowed in the calling, trial, and examination of deacons in certain cases," contains provisions which, if carefully and judiciously administered, may be productive of most beneficial results to the Southern Dioceses. The canon will enable the Bishop, with the concurrence of the Convention, to provide in many cases for the religious instruction and christianizing of the slave population. This was the thing chiefly contemplated by the friends of the measure when it was brought before the legislature of the church ; and although action under it is rendered embarrassing by many restrictions and limitations, as will always be the case when a majority is legislating for a people whose condition and circumstances they do not understand, still the hope is fondly cherished that much good will come of it. There are pious laymen in our church, owners of large numbers of slaves, anxious, more so than tongue can express, for their religious improvement, who will, doubtless, feel it incumbent upon them to take upon themselves "this office and ministry," and do what God shall enable them for the regeneration of a class who have the strongest claims upon our sympathies and charity.

In conclusion, I shall be pardoned for adverting to a matter which is of some consequence to myself personally. The Convention held at Vicksburg, year before last, unanimously, I believe, voted me a salary as Provisional Bishop of Mississippi, of \$1000 per annum : of this sum I received in the year 1843, \$267 89, and last year \$484 50, leaving a balance unpaid of \$247 and 61 cents. I feel assured that it is only

necessary to call the attention of the Convention to the fact as stated, to ensure its prompt adjustment.

Beseeching God Almighty to have you, brethren, in his holy keeping, to further you with his continual help in all your efforts for the extension of his truth through the instrumentality of His Holy Church, and commanding you to that grace which is able to keep you from falling, and to give you an inheritance among all them that are sanctified, I remain your affectionate friend and servant in the Gospel,

JAS. H. O'TEY,

Provisional Bishop of Mississippi.

Columbia, Tenn., April 16, 1845.

From the foregoing it will be perceived that one of the first duties with which this Convention is charged, is to make a proper disposition of the business referred to it by resolutions of the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies of the last General Convention. Whether the Rev. Dr. Hawks be not now the Bishop elect of Mississippi—whether this Convention be not empowered to express its sense of the whole matter referred to it by the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies, by confirming the election already made, and sending the Rev. Dr. Hawks to the standing committee and Bishops of the church as the Bishop elect of this Diocese—or whether this Convention be authorized to enter into a new election—are questions which come fairly, if not necessarily, before you for consideration, and will, I doubt not, receive from you the attention which their grave importance demands. That you may feel free from all embarrassment in acting upon the subject of Dr. Hawks' election, as made by the Convention of 1844, I will state that I am authorized by letter from him, to act in his name, and that all that he desires is to have justice done to his character. Under these circumstances, then, I feel empowered to withdraw the name of Dr. Hawks from the consideration of this Convention as a candidate for the Episcopate, and ask that it may be considered as withdrawn from all connection with the subject, except so far as it may be

deemed necessary to do justice to his character, and place him, so far as dependent on our action, on the ground occupied by him antecedent to the time of his nomination to the Episcopate of Mississippi. I think it will be best to refer the whole subject to a committee to report thereon for the consideration of the Convention.

I have to repeat here, dear brethren, my earnest desire that some arrangement be made by you for the more efficient discharge of Episcopal duties in this Diocese, than my own feeble health and indispensable engagements to my own Diocese will allow. The field for exertion which is spread out before you is exceedingly interesting and inviting. There are many neighborhoods and villages where the labors of a faithful and efficient clergyman only are wanted to do good service for the cause of Christ, and to lay the foundations for large and respectable congregations. God's blessing upon efforts judiciously directed, as they may be, and to the right points, will soon make the solitary places glad, and cause the desert to rejoice and blossom as the rose. In short, I do not know a more interesting and promising field for the labors of the spiritual husbandman, than is now presented in the Diocese of Mississippi. It is true, that the prospect is not so clear and bright as it was two years ago; but the adverse circumstances which have tended to the discouragement of our brethren and friends in some parts of the Diocese, while they call for the exercise of more faith and more exertion also to meet them, may by these means be controlled and turn to blessings in the end. While you were weak and feeble, I most willingly did all in my power to nourish and strengthen you as a Diocese. You are now able to take care of yourselves. You can, at least, obtain the oversight of others who will provide for your wants so much better than I can hope to do, that I respectfully and earnestly request that the act of the Convention establishing our present connection, be revoked.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Freeman, Missionary Bishop, who visited

most of the congregations of Mississippi last spring, at my request, has reported to me the following official acts :

At Woodville, he baptized *one* adult and confirmed *two* persons.

At Natchez, he confirmed *eight* persons, in Trinity church.

At Christ church, Jefferson county, he confirmed *two* persons.

At Vicksburg, he confirmed *six* persons, in Christ church.

At Jackson, he baptized *five* adults and confirmed *fifteen* persons.

On all these occasions the Missionary Bishop preached, and, I understand, with great acceptance to the people.

The following clerical changes have taken place during the year that is now past :

The Rev. F. W. Boyd has resigned the Rectorship of Christ church, Vicksburg, and been succeeded by Rev. Mr. Patterson, of Tennessee.

The Rev. C. A. Foster has been dismissed to the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

The Rev. D. C. Page has resigned the Rectorship of Trinity church, Natchez, and accepted a call to the Rectorship of Christ church, and of St. Thomas' Hall, a school for boys, at Holly Springs.

The Rev. Willie Peck has been received into this Diocese, on letters dimissory from Bishop Potter, of Pennsylvania, and has had temporary charge of Trinity church, Natchez.

The Rev. Willard Presbury has been received on letters dimissory from Bishop Smith, of Kentucky, and has been officiating for several months past, as missionary in Washington county.

The Rev. Amos Cleaver, upon like letters from the same ecclesiastical authority, has been received, and has been officiating at Jackson, in the double capacity of preacher and teacher.

The Rev. S. Wall still resides in Louisiana.

The Rev. N. W. Camp has resigned the charge of St. An-

drew's church, Jackson, and accepted a call to a newly organized congregation at Yazoo City.

The Rev. J. A. Fox has removed to Louisiana.

The Rev. J. S. Greene has resigned the charge of the Church of the Epiphany, in Claiborne county, and removed to Mississippi City, where he is officiating as a missionary.

The Rev. A. Matthews has been appointed missionary in DeSoto county, and has organized another congregation, for whose accommodation a new church is nearly completed.

On the 26th February, of this present year, I left home on a visitation of the churches in this Diocese, and arrived at Natchez, by the way of the river, on the morning of the 9th of March. I had expected to be at Natchez much earlier, and had accordingly appointed Sunday, the 8th, for the ordination of Wm. M. Giles, a candidate for orders. In consequence of unexpected detention, the day of ordination had to be postponed to the 15th. On that day, being the third Sunday in Lent, I admitted Mr. Wm. M. Giles to the order of Deacon, he having sustained a very satisfactory examination upon the studies prescribed by the canons, and laid before me the usual testimonial from the standing committee. I was assisted in the services and in the communion, by the Rev. Messrs. Boyd, Deacon and Peck, and preached on the occasion. The candidate was presented by the Rev. Mr. Deacon. A collection was made at the same time in behalf of missions, amounting to \$46 66.

I have appointed the Rev. Mr. Giles missionary to Washington, with permission to devote one half of his time to St. Paul's church, Woodville. I entertain the most pleasing hopes as to the results of this arrangement.

Friday, March 20th, I set off for Woodville, and on the next day, *Saturday 21st*, after prayers by Rev. Mr. Boyd, I preached to a small congregation at half past 3 o'clock.

*Sunday 22—*Morning prayer was read by Rev. Mr. Boyd, ante-communion and sermon by myself, after which, I confirmed *one* person—it was the venerable father of the former

Rector of this Parish, the Rev. Mr. Crane, who thus "witnessed a good confession before many witnesses." In the afternoon, after prayers, I again preached.

The next services performed by me in this Diocese, were at St. Mary's church, Laurel Hill, on Good Friday, April 10, and Saturday, April 11. On both of these days I preached, after prayers by the Rev. Mr. Deacon. On Saturday afternoon, I addressed the negroes at one of the plantations of Dr. Mercer.

Sunday 12, Easter day—After morning prayers by Mr. Deacon, I preached, confirmed *eight* persons, in Trinity church, Natchez, and, assisted by Rev. Mr. Peck, administered the holy communion. The collection made on this occasion for missions, amounted to \$23 95. In the afternoon I again preached, after prayers by Mr. Peck.

Monday 13—Came to Washington, where, after prayers by Mr. Giles, in the College Chapel, I preached to a respectable congregation, gathered upon the short notice which could be circulated of our wish to have service.

Tuesday 14—Rev. Mr. Boyd read prayers, when I preached and confirmed *four* persons, and delivered an address in explanation of that ancient and apostolic rite. The same day I came to Arundo, the seat of Mr. Jos. Dunbar.

Wednesday 15—After prayers, preached in Christ church, in the forenoon.

Thursday 16—Early this morning, I rode to Rev. Mr. Fish's, who has been officiating for eighteen months, or more, with great acceptance to the congregation of Christ church, Jefferson county, and baptized his infant daughter, who was too feeble to be taken to church. After this, I returned to the church, preached and confirmed *four* persons. The same afternoon I was kindly brought on my way by Mr. Jas. Railey, to the neighborhood of Port Gibson.

Friday 17—At Port Gibson, the Rev. Mr. Merrill read prayers in the Presbyterian church, and I preached to a small congregation in the morning. In the afternoon, I baptized

one colored adult and her three children, and also three white children: At night I preached again, and confirmed *two* persons. The same night I rode to Dr. Magruder's, three miles in the country, and next morning, *Saturday 18*, I baptized his infant son, preached to the negroes, and confirmed *nine* of them. Returning to Port Gibson, I baptized a child in private, and then set off for Talbot, about fifteen miles distant, in the neighborhood of the Church of the Epiphany. In the afternoon of this day, I baptized *five* children, and at night returned to Bowling Green, the plantation of Mr. Railey, who very kindly provided me with a comfortable conveyance through the whole of this visitation. My best thanks are due to him for this and many undeserved favors.

Sunday 19—Baptized this morning, at Bowling Green, two infant children, then proceeded to the Church of the Epiphany, which, at the request of the Vestry, I consecrated to the worship and service of Almighty God, with the usual rites and solemnities, and according to the order of the Protestant Episcopal Church. The church is a neat framed building, handsomely finished, with a parcel of land attached, with houses for the minister and his family, all secured by deed to the church. I am assured that a competent support may be obtained by a clergyman willing to *settle* here, and devote himself faithfully to the religious instruction of the people. On this occasion, I also baptized *three* children, confirmed *four* persons, preached, and, assisted by Rev. Mr. Merrill, administered the holy communion to 21 persons.

Monday 20—Accompanied by Dr. Abercrombie and Mr. Railey, in his coach, I came to Grand Gulf, a distance of sixteen miles, this morning, and, after prayers by Rev. Mr. Merrill, I preached to a small congregation in the room which has been fitted up for service at this place.

In the afternoon of this day, I went aboard of a steamboat and proceeded up the river to the neighborhood of Lake Washington, where was formerly a congregation, under the care of Rev. Wm. T. Leacock. On *Tuesday 21*, I reached

the residence of G. G. Skipwith, eight miles from Lake Washington, and immediately dispatched notices in different directions for service on the morrow.

Wednesday 22—Baptized early this morning, the infant son of G. G. Skipwith, Esq., and made an effort to reach the place of public worship, about seven and a half miles distant, but was forced to return on account of the inclemency of the weather. A second attempt about 12 o'clock, was more successful, but no congregation had assembled. I rode on to a neighbor's house, Mr. F. J. Turnbull, where the same evening I baptized his two children, a son and daughter. The next day, returning to Mr. Skipwith's, I baptized the infant son of Judge Robert Fitz.

Sunday 26—For three days past, I had anxiously looked for a boat, and this morning, clear and bright, found me still on the banks of the Mississippi. Going to the house erected for worship, I found all the people of the neighborhood assembled, for whom I read prayers and preached. In the evening of the same day a boat came, which I boarded, and by which I reached Vicksburg early on *Monday 27th*. Accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Patterson, I set off to day for Yazoo City, which place we reached by boat, *Tuesday 28th*. At $10\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, A. M., Mr. Patterson read prayers, performing the like services at 4 and at $7\frac{1}{2}$, P. M. On each of these occasions I preached. The zeal and liberality of the small body of Episcopalians at Yazoo City, are worthy of the highest commendation. They have hired a commodious house, which has been fitted up in very neat and church-like style, for worship. Pews have been made—a chancel, communion table, reading desk and pulpit, tastily arranged and cushioned, where needful and appropriate—an organ gallery raised, and in it a fine toned organ placed, and well served by the Rector's wife, who is assisted by a small, but well trained choir—the floors of the building are carpeted, and the rear end appropriated as a vestry room. Every thing wears an aspect of comfort and neatness, and I trust the spiritual

character of the congregation will be in accordance with the external order, beauty and propriety of their house of worship.

Wednesday 29—Read prayers, and Mr. Patterson preached. In the afternoon, after prayers by Mr. P., I baptized *two* adults, and preached. At night, Mr. Camp read prayers, when I preached, and confirmed *five* persons. Returning to Vicksburg on *Friday, May 1st*, I preached in Christ church at night, after prayers by the Rev. Mr. Patterson. On this occasion, a society, or association, was formed for the promotion of christian knowledge, by the distribution of the Bible, the Prayer Book, Tracts, and the like. I would take this opportunity to commend the objects of this society to the favor and support, not only of the members of this congregation, but to the members and friends of our church throughout the State. By keeping a supply of Bibles, Prayer Books and Tracts, at this place, all other points in the State may be readily and amply supplied. The Rt. Rev. Bishop of Kentucky was present on the occasion above mentioned, warmly commended the plan, and made some interesting statements, illustrating the value of the Prayer Book, by incidents which had fallen under his own observation.

Sunday 3—Was passed at Jackson. The Methodist church had been courteously offered to our use and accepted. The Rev. Mr. Cleaver read prayers in the morning and afternoon, on both of which occasions I preached, to large congregations. In the afternoon, I baptized a child.

There is, at present, but one candidate for orders in this Diocese: President Thornton, of the college at Jackson. There are four other applications to be received as candidates, which have not yet been acted on by the standing committee.

On every occasion of addressing you, brethren, I have, I believe, commended to your liberal support the missions of the church. I once more, and probably for the last time, repeat the recommendation. We are ourselves in circumstances calling for the liberal and helping hand of our more

savored brethren, to strengthen and support us. They have not been indifferent to our appeals heretofore, and we should, at least, manifest our gratitude so far as to show that we are making reasonable exertions to help ourselves. And let me mention, for the encouragement of every one to whom this communication may come, that I have had placed in my hands, within a few weeks past, the contributions made to the mite box by the children of four families, in the vicinity of Natchez, amounting to \$78 67½. What might not be done for the cause of missions in Mississippi, if each family in the Diocese would go and do likewise ! We should be able to double the number of our missionaries, and to send the light of consolation and joy to many a dark and benighted corner of our land, without ever feeling, in the slightest degree, that we had impoverished or straitened ourselves.

Dear brethren of the clergy : I beseech you, when you go back to your homes, to withhold not from your people the necessary light to inform them on this subject; deprive them not of the privilege—for it is a blessed privilege—of giving a portion of the bounty with which God has loaded them, to promote the extension of Christ's Kingdom on earth.

The eighth canon of the General Convention of 1841, requires that each clergyman shall report to his Bishop, on or before the first day of every Annual Convention. The Rev. Messrs. Boyd, Page, Patterson, Peck, Presbury and Matthews, are the only clergymen in the Diocese who have complied with this provision.

It only remains, brethren, that I commend you, in your present work, and in all your future life, to the gracious care and guidance of our Heavenly Father.

Your faithful friend and affectionate pastor,

JAS. H. OTEY.

Vicksburg, May 8, 1846.

Mr. Joseph Dunbar, from the standing committee, presented certain documents from the General Convention, relative to the case of Dr. F. L. Hawks, recommended for consecra-

tion as Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi ; which, on motion, were referred to a committee consisting of one layman from each Parish represented in this Convention, to-wit :

Messrs. Hughes, Winchester, Mercer, Dunbar, Prosser, Fontaine, Ewing, Grant, Coffee and Lake. The Bishop appointed the Rev. Mr. Halsey chairman of said committee.

On motion, the Convention proceeded to the election of a Secretary and Treasurer ; and, on counting the ballots, it appeared that Charles A. Bradford, of Jackson, was duly elected, who appeared and entered upon the duties of his office.

The Rev. Mr. Deacon read the report of the standing committee.

On motion, the Convention proceeded to the election of delegates to the General Convention ; when it appeared that the Rev. W. F. Halsey, the Rev. N. W. Camp, the Rev. F. W. Boyd, and the Rev. D. H. Deacon, of the clergy, and Messrs Jos. Dunbar, Robt. Hughes, E. H. Stiles, and the Hon. Edward Turner, of the laity, were elected.

On motion, the Convention adjourned to $4\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, and at that hour resumed its session.

It was then moved that the Convention proceed to the election of Trustees of the General Theological Seminary, which was agreed to. And the vote having been taken, it appeared that the Rev. D. C. Page, and the Rev. S. Patterson, were duly elected.

On motion, the Secretary was directed to have five hundred copies of the journal of this Convention printed, together with the constitution and canons of the Diocese, and also the form which has been recommended of articles of association for the organization of new Parishes, as an appendix to the same.

The Rev. Mr. Halsey, from the committee to which was referred the papers from the General Convention in the case of the Rev. Dr. Hawks, reported the following resolutions, for the adoption of the Convention :

Resolved, That, notwithstanding the charges preferred against the Rev. F. L. Hawks in the last General Convention, we have undiminished confidence in his integrity, as a man, a gentleman, and a christian.

Resolved, That while we would, if necessary, press the claim of the Rev. F. L. Hawks for consecration, in pursuance of his election at a former Convention, yet, being satisfied that it is his wish that those claims should not be pressed, we forbear, and receive and assent to the withdrawal of those claims.

The resolutions having been read, a motion was made that they be adopted, when Mr. Halsey asked leave to be excused from voting on the question, which was granted, and then the resolutions were adopted.

On motion, it was *ordered*, that the documents in the case of the Rev. Dr. Hawks, be placed in the hands of the Standing Committee, to be forwarded to the Secretary of the General Convention, by the delegates appointed to that body.

On motion, the Convention proceeded to the election of the Standing Committee; when it appeared that the Rev. Dr. Camp, the Rev. Mr. Patterson, Geo. S. Yerger, Esq., and William C. Smedes, Esq., were duly elected.

A motion was then made for the appointment of a committee to consider of the competency of the Diocese to go into the election of a Bishop, which was agreed to; and the Rev. Mr. Deacon, Rev. Mr. Boyd, Rev. Mr. Halsey, Mr. Dunbar, Mr. Ewing, and Mr. Yerger, were appointed the committee.

A motion was made that a committee be appointed to take into consideration the Bishop's salary. Pending the motion, the Bishop retired from the chair, and at his request, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Smith, of Kentucky, presided, *pro. tem.*

The motion was then amended so as to require the committee to assess the deficiency in said salary upon the several parishes in equitable proportions; and so amended, it was

agreed to, and the Rev. Mr. Camp, Mr. Hughes, and Mr. Dunbar, were appointed the committee.

On motion, a committee was appointed, consisting of the Rev. Mr. Deacon, and Mr. Tappan, to audit the Treasurer's report.

The Convention then adjourned till to-morrow morning, at 8 o'clock.

SATURDAY, May 9, 1846.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Prayers were read by the Bishop. The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

On motion, it was *resolved*, that the next Annual Convention meet on the first Wednesday in May, 1847, at the City of Jackson.

Mr. Camp, from the committee appointed to take into consideration the Bishop's salary, made the following report:

That there is due the Bishop, on account of his salary for the year 1843, - - - - - \$247 61
 " " 1844, - - - - - 1,000 00
 " " 1845, - - - - - 1,000 00

Total, - - - - - \$2,247 61

We have assessed the churches as follows, to be paid each year for the last two years, except Trinity church, Yazoo, which is for the current year:

Trinity church, Natchez,	- - - - -	\$300 00
Christ's church, Jefferson,	- - - - -	100 00
St. Paul's church, Woodville,	- - - - -	120 00
Christ's church, Vicksburg,	- - - - -	150 00
St. Mary's church, Laurel Hill,	- - - - -	120 00
St. Paul's church, Columbus,	- - - - -	50 00
St. Andrew's church, Jackson,	- - - - -	100 00
Christ's church, Holly Springs,	- - - - -	50 00
Epiphany church, Claiborne,	- - - - -	25 00
Trinity church, Yazoo City,	- - - - -	50 00
St. John's church, Pontotoc,	- - - - -	20 00
St. Andrew's church, Marshall county,	- - - - -	25 00
St. Paul's church, Grand Gulf,	- - - - -	30 00
		<hr/> \$1,140 00

Resolved, That the churches in connection with the Convention, be requested, forthwith, to pay the sums due on the above assessment to the Provisional Bishop ; and where such payments are not made at the present Convention, that the Secretary furnish each church which has not paid, with the above assessment.

The report and resolutions were read and adopted.

On motion, it was *resolved*, That the Secretary distribute the journal of this Convention, after the same shall have been printed, in the following manner, to-wit : to the Rt. Rev. Bishop Otey ten copies, to each lay delegate to this Convention two copies, to each clergyman or rector of this Diocese ten copies ; and the remainder of the printed copies to be distributed as the Secretary may deem best for the interest of the church.

Rev. Mr. Deacon, from the committee appointed to audit the accounts of the Treasurer, reported, that they were unable to come to any satisfactory adjustment of the same, for want of the vouchers of the late Treasurer.

Whereupon, on motion, *resolved*, That the Secretary and Treasurer of this Convention, be requested to settle the account of the late Treasurer, and report thereon to the next annual meeting of this Convention.

Mr. Deacon, from the committee appointed to consider of the competency of the Convention to elect a Bishop, reported, that this Convention has no power, canonically, to elect a Bishop ; which was agreed to.

Rev. Mr. Deacon, from the committee appointed to consider of amendments to the constitution and canons of the Diocese, reported the following proposed amendments :

1st. Strike out the proviso to the 3d article of the constitution.

2d. Amend the 7th article, and make a business quorum to consist of not less than three clergymen, and lay delegates from three parishes.

3d canon proposed : Any Parish constituted especially for

the benefit of slaves, and having a rector, shall be entitled to a lay representation, on nomination by the rector and confirmed by the Bishop.

The Convention then adjourned till 3½ o'clock; at which hour, it resumed its session.

On motion, the vote fixing the time of meeting of the next Convention, was re-considered, and the 4th Wednesday in January, 1847, was agreed to as the time for its meeting.

The Convention then took up the report of the committee on amendments to the constitution and canons; and the question being upon agreeing to the first amendment proposed, the yeas and nays were called for, and it was decided in the negative, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative are, Messrs. Prosser, Lake, and Edward Turner, of the laity—3.

Those who voted in the negative are, Rev. Mr. Camp, Rev. Mr. Halsey, Rev. Mr. Patterson, Rev. Mr. Presbury, Rev. Mr. Boyd, of the clergy; and Messrs. Crane, Tappan, Yerger, Geo. W. Turner, Stiles, McCaleb, Hughes, Palmer, Ewing, Fontaine, Grant, Bridwell and Clayton—18.

On motion, the Convention took up for consideration, the amendment proposed to the constitution by Mr. Crane, in the Convention of 1844, (Journal of Conv. p. 9) in the following words: "Strike out so much of the 7th article thereof as requires a majority of parishes to be represented in Convention in order to form a quorum;" and the amendment was agreed to.

The following preamble and resolution was submitted to the Convention :

Whereas the Rt. Rev. James H. Otey, Bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee, and Provisional Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Mississippi, in his late address to this Convention, has expressed a wish that the relation heretofore existing between him as Provisional Bishop of this Diocese, be revoked, therefore,

Resolved, That this relation, expressed in the foregoing

preamble, be, and is hereby revoked, from and after such time as Bishop Otey shall signify a termination of his official duties on his present visitation.

On motion, the further consideration of the resolution was postponed till the next meeting of the Convention in January next.

On motion, *resolved*, That the committee appointed at the Convention of 1844, to procure from the Legislature of this State an act of incorporation of a society for the support of the widows and orphans of destitute clergymen, deceased, be continued till next Convention.

On motion, *resolved*, That a committee, to consist of Geo. S. Yerger, W. C. Smedes, Jno. T. McMurran, A. M. Felus, Jos. Dunbar, M. W. Ewing, P. M. Grant, J. W. J. Niles, W. Goodman, D. Minor, and J. Railey, be appointed to raise by subscription, or otherwise, a sum adequate to the support of the Provisional Bishop of this Diocese, and that they report to the next meeting of the Convention, and that the Secretary be directed to notify each member of the committee of his appointment.

On motion, *resolved*, That the Secretary and Treasurer be directed to pay immediately to Thos. Palmer, the balance due on his bill for printing the journal of the last Convention.

The following resolution was submitted :

Resolved, That the Bishop of this Diocese be requested to act under, and appoint deacons, by virtue of canon vi, of the canons of the General Convention of 1844, entitled, "Of a discretion to be allowed in the calling, trial, and examination of deacons, in certain cases."

A motion was then made to postpone the further consideration of the resolution till the next Convention; and after considerable debate, Rev. Mr. Boyd demanded that the question be taken by orders, and it being so taken, the motion was determined in the negative, as follows:

Of the clergy : Yeas—Rev. Mr. Halsey, Rev. Mr. Boyd - 2.

Nays—Rev. Mr. Camp, Rev. Mr. Merrill, Rev. Mr. Patterson, and Rev. Mr. Presbury—4.

Of the laity: Yeas—St. Paul's church, Columbus—1.

Nays—St. Paul's church, Woodville; Christ's church, Vicksburg; Trinity church, Natchez; Church of the Epiphany, McCaleb's; St. Andrew's church, Jackson; Trinity church, Yazoo; St. John's church, Pontotoc; St. Paul's church, Grand Gulf; Christ's church, Jefferson county—9.

The question recurred on the adoption of the motion, which prevailed.

The following resolution was submitted :

Resolved, That the thanks of the Convention be tendered to the Rt. Rev. Bishop Otey, for the dignity, impartiality, and christian courtesy, with which he has presided over the deliberations of this body.

And the question being put by the Secretary, it was adopted unanimously.

The following resolution was submitted :

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention are justly due, and are hereby tendered, to the citizens of Vicksburg and its vicinity, for the kind and generous hospitality extended by them to the members of this body, during its present session, and that they are particularly due and tendered, to Mr. John Thatcher, of the "Thatcher House," for his liberality in refusing to receive any compensation from the members of the Convention who have lodged at that house; and that the Secretary be requested to furnish a copy of this resolution for publication in the newspapers of this city, and also to Mr. John Thatcher.

Which was unanimously agreed to.

And then, on motion, the Convention adjourned *sine die*.

C. A. BRADFORD, Secretary.

PAROCHIAL REPORTS—FOR 1845.**ST. MARY'S CHURCH, LAUREL HILL.**

The Rector of St. Mary's Church, Laurel Hill, has continued through the past year, his usual routine of services. He has performed Divine Service for the white people of the neighborhood, every Sunday morning, except during a part of the winter. To the colored people of Dr. Mercer's plantations, who constitute his principal charge, he has ministered regularly every Sunday, and to them the accompanying statistics refer.

Marriages,	- - - -	4
Baptisms, (infants,)	- - -	14
Funerals,	- - - -	9

He has reason to believe that his labors have not been altogether in vain, the slaves continuing to take an unabated interest in the services, and decided religious impressions are occasionally found to have been made. He regards himself, however, as employed in sowing the seed of a future harvest, more than in gathering the ripened fruit. Still it has been his privilege, under the Divine blessing, to see some, so far as he is able to judge, brought to that knowledge "of God and of Jesus Christ, whom he has sent, which is life eternal."

D. H. DEACON,

Rector of St. Mary's Church, Laurel Hill.

To the Rt. Rev. G. W. FREEMAN.

May 6th, 1845.

CHRIST CHURCH, HOLLY SPRINGS.

To the Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi:

Rt. Rev. and Dear Sir—I beg leave to report to you, that since the last Convention, I resigned the charge of Christ Church, Holly Springs, but have since occasionally officiated and preached. The Parish is now vacant, but rather than the church should be closed, I officiate every Sunday, and on the first Sunday of every month, I administer the Lord's Supper.

Holly Springs, 28th April, 1845.

C. A. FOSTER.

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY, CLAIBORNE Co.

The Rector of the Church of the Epiphany, reports to the Bishop, that nothing important has occurred in this Parish during the last year—that the services of the church were duly performed, with the exception of three or four month's interruption, occasioned by sickness, which prevailed generally through the county; and with which, the Rector and his family were most painfully visited; and that, for their safety and his own, he went to a neighboring county, where having remained until the season became more healthy, he returned and resumed his duties in this church, which, he hopes, have been faithfully discharged, unless when the badness of the weather, or the delicacy of his health, interfered.

The regular number of communicants in this church are 10, and the sacrament duly administered on the first Sunday in the month, except when

any accident prevents. Our Sunday School is in operation, and doing well.

Deaths in this Parish the last year were six, three of whom were children; and of the three adults, one was a communicant, and the others occasional members of the congregation. Marriages and baptisms, none.

CHRIST CHURCH, VICKSBURG.

The Rector of Christ Church, Vicksburg, respectfully reports from the register of his Parish, the following:

Families and pewholders last report,	- - - - -	89	
Changes, unknown.			
Baptized—Adults, white,	- - - - -	3	
Infants, white,	- - - - -	35—Total, - - -	38
Confirmed—Former number,	- - - - -	51	
Added,	- - - - -	8—Total, - - -	59
Communicants—Former number,	- - - - -	75 (mistake of 2) 73	
Added,	- - - - -	21	
Died,	- - - - -	1	
Removed,	- - - - -	13	
Withdrawn,	- - - - -	3—Total, - - -	77
Funerals—Parishioners,	- - - - -	11	
Others,	- - - - -	1—Total, - - -	12
Marriages—White,	- - - - -	4	
Colored,	- - - - -	0—Total, - - -	4
Catechumens,	- - - - -	25	
Sunday School—(No change reported.)			
Church offerings at the Holy Eucharist,	- - - - -	\$50 19	
Incidental expenses,	- - - - -	28 37	
Domestic missions,	- - - - -	42 00	
		\$120 56	

While the Rector of Christ Church would record, with grateful emotions, any degree of success which the blessings of the Great Head of the Church has accorded to his labors, yet he is pained to reflect that so little has been done. His comparative inefficiency, is attributable to his necessary absence from his Parish the last summer, in attendance upon the General Convention, and his own ill health since January last. He knows of no reason why his Parish should not increase, and be vigorous and as prosperous as any in the South-west, if it be diligently cultivated. The small debt reported to the last Convention, is resting yet upon the Parish, and still cripples its energies.

ST. JOHN'S PARISH, DE SOTO COUNTY.

The Rector of St. John's Parish, De Soto county, Miss., Reports, that during the last summer his services were chiefly confined to his own house and the neighborhood where his present Parish is now organized. Since

his return from the General Convention last fall, he procured the use of the Methodist meeting house in Hernando, every second Sunday. For some time back, he has divided his time between that point and the Parish of St. John's. The Parish of St. John's has been recently organized, and presents a favorable prospect. Since its organization, he has baptized three adults, and hopes shortly to baptize several others. Admitted to the Holy Communion for the first time, one.

The Church may be said to be fairly established in that neighborhood. A neat chapel is about to be erected by a few of the members of that Parish, during the ensuing summer.

The prospects at Hernando, hitherto gloomy, begin to brighten. We hope shortly to get possession of our own little church at that place. So soon as that is effected, the Rector designs re-organizing that Parish. We humbly trust that a brighter day is not far ahead. The recent interest manifested in the Parish of St. John's, has very much cheered the heart of its Rector.

Baptisms—Adults, 3 ; infants, 5 ; Funerals, 2.

May 5th, 1845.

ANDREW MATTHEWS, Rector.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, CITY OF JACKSON.

The Rector of St. Andrew's Church, respectfully submits the following report to the Bishop, viz:

Present number of baptized members of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, - - - - 156

Present number of confirmed members, - - - - - 72

" " communicants, - - - - - 52

" " families in attendance, - - - - - 35

" " single individuals, - - - - - 30

Number of adults baptized since last report, 17

" " children, " " " 29—Total, 46

Number of persons confirmed since last report, - - - - - 19

" " communicants added " " - - - - 32

Number of communicants left the Parish since last report, - - - - 1

" " families added since last report, - - - - - 5

" " marriages since last report, - - - - - 2

" " burials—Adults 2, children 4, - - - - - 6

The Holy Eucharist has been celebrated (times) - - - - - 8

Offerings—For domestic missions, - - \$29 35

“ communion furniture, 13 95

“ current expenses, - - 12 40—Total, \$55 70

The Rector has officiated every Lord's Day in the Parish, excepting once in New Orleans, once in a steamboat between Natchez and New Orleans, once at Natchez, and six times at Vicksburg, last summer, during the Rev. Mr. Boyd's absence.

City of Jackson, May 5, 1845,

N. W. CAMP, Rector.

PORT GIBSON MISSION, CLAIBORNE COUNTY.

Rev. A. P. Merrill, Missionary, Port Gibson, respectfully reports, that he organized a congregation of colored people, on the plantation of Dr. McGruder, near this place, in January, 1844, since which time, he has regularly performed missionary duty among them, preaching the Gospel, visiting the sick, and burying the dead, with the exception of a temporary absence at the North. The present condition of the Parish is as follows, viz:

Congregation,	- - - - -	50 to 150
Communicants,	" - - - - -	7
Baptisms performed—Infants 51, Adults 4,	- - - - -	55
Funerals, - - - - -	- - - - -	13

There has been no Episcopal visitation since the Parish was organized, and consequently, no confirmations, though several are waiting to be confirmed.

The Missionary has had urgent and repeated solicitations, to officiate in the adjacent Parishes of Port Gibson and Grand Gulf, which have been destitute of ministerial services the past year. These requests, he regrets to say, that, consistently with other duties, he has been able to comply with only to a limited extent.

As the Missionary has hitherto realized no part of his support (with the exception of a present from one individual) from his ministerial labors, he has been compelled to adopt the *self-supporting* system; and has devoted himself to his school, the income of which has enabled him to meet current expenses. Should this, which has thus far been his only dependence, fail, he would be obliged to abandon the field. The prospects of his Seminary for Young Ladies, are encouraging, and are such as to inspire the friends of education and the church, with confidence in its success. If he can be sustained in this enterprise by our own church, in addition to the support he at present receives from other quarters, he believes it practicable to build up an institution of learning in Port Gibson, which shall be an ornament to the church and the State of Mississippi.

May 5th, 1845.

A. P. MERRILL.

PAROCHIAL REPORTS—FOR 1845.

CHRIST'S CHURCH, CHURCH HILL, JEFFERSON COUNTY.

To the Rt. Rev. Jas. H. Oley, D. D., Prov. Bishop of Mississippi:

The undersigned would report that, since entering upon the discharge of his duties, (in Nov. 1844,) in the Parish of Christ's Church, Church Hill, Jefferson county, he has officiated constantly, and with gratifying evidences of the Divine blessing upon his labors. During this period, the church edifice has been repaired, the pews repainted, the aisle and chancel carpeted. An instrument of music has been furnished to aid in the services, while this part of our worship has been greatly improved by the introduction of chanting. The number in attendance upon the Sunday exercises, has very

considerably increased; while a spirit of inquiry as to the claims of the Gospel and the church, upon the belief and the affections, is manifest in the case of some who have hitherto "cared not for these things." It is here noted, with thankfulness, that while faction and discord have been abroad in the church, endeavoring to unsettle the faith of its members, and to alienate from each other those who have been made one in Christ Jesus, this Parish has been, by God's blessing, free from agitation, its members content with the church as she is, loving those sober and sufficient services, pursuing those old and Catholic paths which have been hers from the beginning.

The following services have been performed.

Baptisms, 36—11 whites and 25 blacks.

Marriages, 9—6 white couple and 3 black.

Burials, 5—4 whites and 1 slave.

Confirmed, 6—4 whites and 2 slaves.

There have been seven added to the communion, the present number of which is 35. There are, at present, connected with the Parish, 35 families.

J. F. FISH, Officiating at Christ Church,

May 12, 1846.

Church Hill.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, CITY OF JACKSON.

This report will embrace a period of time extending from May 12th, A. D. 1845, to February 1st, A. D. 1846, when the Rector accepted a call to Trinity Church, Yazoo City, Miss.

Baptisms—Children,	- - - - -	3
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Marriages,	- - - - -	4
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Burials,	- - - - -	5
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Collections at the communion, including a collection at the meeting of a few delegates and clergy, in May, 1845,	- - - - -	\$76 84
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Of which, for domestic missions, were,	- - - - -	18 22
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And the remainder, \$58 62, were appropriated to meet current expenses.		
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Communicants, about	- - - - -	60
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The resignation of the Rector was accepted by the Wardens and Vestry of St. Andrew's Church, in May, 1846. Since the Rector removed to his present Parish, the Rev. Amos Cleaver has continued to preach for St. Andrew's Church; and it is understood that a suitable lot of ground has been purchased, and hopes are entertained that a church will be erected before the coming winter.

NORMAN W. CAMP,

Rector of St. Andrew's Church.

MISSION IN WASHINGTON Co.

Willard Presbury, Missionary in Washington county and vicinity, respectfully submits to the Bishop, the following report:

I became a resident of this part of the Diocese in December, 1844, since which time, my labors in the ministry have been mostly confined to about fifty negroes upon a plantation. These, with few exceptions, when sick-

ness or the inclemency of the weather prevented, have been regularly assembled on Sunday, for religious instruction and the services of our church. Though there is still much room for improvement, yet a manifest change has been produced in their moral character. During the last three months, there has been a considerable degree of seriousness among them, and several, I trust, have become truly pious. Occasionally, I have visited a small neighborhood, 25 miles distant. Here, our services have been well appreciated, and several have, apparently, become the true disciples of Christ.

In October last, I visited Yazoo City, and held the first public service of our church in the place. By the blessing of God upon my labors here, in a few weeks, a Parish was organized, a building rented and neatly fitted up and furnished for public worship, and the Parish now enjoys the regular ministrations of a Rector.

Baptisms—White adults 2, infants 2,	- - - - -	4
Colored adults 9, infants 19,	- - - - -	28
Admitted to communion—whites,	- - - - -	3
Candidates for confirmation—White 5, colored 14,	- - - - -	19
Marriages,	- - - - -	1
Funerals—White 1, my own dear child; colored 2,	- - - - -	3

TRINITY CHURCH, NATCHEZ.

In the month of December last, the undersigned, moving southwardly, landed at Natchez, where he temporarily officiates in Trinity Church. His ministrations have been, morning and afternoon service on Sundays; also, morning prayers on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Marriages,	- - - - -	3
Baptisms—Adults 4, infants 10,	- - - - -	14
Burials,	- - - - -	4
Communicants, added,	- - - - -	10
Present number, about	- - - - -	85

On the 12th ult., the Rt. Rev. Dr. Otey confirmed eight worthy members, and others are now waiting to receive that Apostolic rite. The Sunday School consists of five teachers, and about fifty pupils. In Natchez, as in every other place, the Lord is ready to work gloriously among those who act worthily.

W. PECK.

May 4th, 1846.

ST. JOHN'S PARISH, DE SOTO COUNTY.

The Missionary at St. John's Parish, De Soto county, Miss., and officiating at Hernando, states to his Bishop, (Otey,) as follows, viz:

Since his last report, he continues his services regularly at the above places. Administered the communion twice in St. John's Parish. A neat little frame church, with Gothic windows, and of a sufficient size for the congregation, will be in readiness for worship on Easter Sunday. This, though on a small scale, is matter of rejoicing. A very few years ago, the families who have erected this comfortable little building, knew nothing of

our church, or its heaven inspired services. Thank God, we have in the wilderness, (though, as yet, on a small scale,) a church and a people.

There are in St. John's Parish, six, or more, candidates for confirmation, and our little church ready for consecration. A debt of \$250 stills hangs over the church at Hernando. The Missionary knows not how to raise it.

Respectfully, &c., ANDREW MATTHEWS, Miss'y.
April 1st, 1846.

WASHINGTON MISSION, ADAMS COUNTY.

The Missionary at Washington, Miss., reports to the Bishop, that, since his ordination on the 15th of March, last, he has

Read prayers,	- - - - -	14 times.
Preached on Sundays, at Washington, and at other places,	9	"
Lectured on the Wednesdays and Fridays of the latter part		
of Lent,	- - - - -	5 "
Solemnized marriages, (servants,) - - - - -	2	

And that four persons were confirmed by the Bishop at his recent visit.

He further reports, that he has accepted a temporary call to St. Paul's church, Woodville; and expects that, if the Lord permit, he will officiate at Washington and Woodville, on alternate Sundays.

All of which, is respectfully presented, by WM. M. GILES.
May 9, 1846.

CHRIST'S CHURCH, HOLLY SPRINGS.

The Rector would respectfully report to the Bishop, that in September last he removed from Natchez, and became Principal of St. Thomas' Hall and Rector of Christ Church, Holly Springs; and that since that time he has been engaged in teaching and in the duties of his ministry. His official acts for the half year during which he has had charge of the Parish, have been—

Baptisms,	- - - - -	1
Marriages,	- - - - -	2
Burials,	- - - - -	3
Present number of communicants,	- - - - -	24.

During Lent, he had prayers every Wednesday evening and a sermon, his duties at St. Thomas' Hall not allowing him to officiate during the day. During Passion week, there were daily services; as also on the Monday and Tuesday of Easter week.

On Saturday, the 18th of April, at the residence of Mrs. Gavan, he officiated for the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Marshall county; and the following day, at the residence of D. Minor, Esq., in the same neighborhood, on which occasion he administered the Holy Communion.

A neat church edifice is in the course of erection by this Parish, and such arrangements will shortly be made, it is trusted, as will secure to them the regular services of a minister. DAVID C. PAGE.

P. S. The number of communicants, as reported to the Convention of

1844, was 51; since which period, 25 out of that number have removed, and two are no more, leaving the present number 24; one, however, was added at Easter, so that, to account for the difference between the present and former number, 28 persons must have been removed, by death or otherwise.

D. C. P.

CHRIST'S CHURCH, VICKSBURG.

The Rector of Christ's Church, Vicksburg, reports to the Bishop, the following statement, taken from the Parish register:

Families connected with the church,	- - - - -	80
Baptized—Adults, white 5, children and infants 16,	- - - - -	21
Communicants,	- - - - -	75
Funerals,	- - - - -	3
Marriages, white,	- - - - -	3
Sunday School—Teachers,	- - - - -	15
Scholars,	- - - - -	100

This statement dates from September, 1845, at which time the present Rector took charge of the Parish. Through the commendable zeal and energy of the ladies of the congregation, \$1,000 of the church debt have been paid. Arrangements have been made, on the part of the Vestry, for the liquidation of the balance. The Sunday School is in a flourishing condition, and promises to become an efficient instrument in increasing the church. A society has also been formed, consisting of both sexes, and called the Vicksburg and Warren county Prayer Book and Tract Society. Its object is to distribute church tracts and the Prayer Book, as a tract, among such persons as are desirous of being informed respecting our church, or stand in need of her instruction. The Parish, under the Divine blessing, prospers, and shows a praiseworthy spirit in advancing the interests of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

S. PATTERSON, Rector.

The Rev. F. W. Boyd, respectfully reports to the Bishop, that he resigned the charge of Christ Church, Vicksburg, in July last, and since that time, has had no cure. His official acts, since his last report, are all recorded in the Parish register of Christ Church, Vicksburg, up to the period of his resignation. Since that time, he has been attending, mainly, to the restoration of his health. He has, however, constantly officiated, publicly or privately, as opportunity has offered, on each Sunday.

The only official acts, called for by the canon in this report, which he has to record, are—

Baptisms—Infants, white,	- - - - -	2
Marriages,	- - - - -	2

He would beg leave to report to his Bishop, that he is now ready, and desirous for service, to the full extent of his ability.

All of which, is respectfully submitted,
To the Rt. Rev. J. H. Otey, D. D., Prov. Bishop of the Diocese of Miss.
Vicksburg, May 8, 1846.

F

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, COLUMBUS.

The Rector of St. Paul's Church, respectfully reports to the Bishop, the following account of his labors for the last two years:

Baptisms—Adults 3, children 17, colored children 6,	26
Marriages, - - - - -	2
Funerals—whites 9, colored persons 6, - - - - -	15
Present number of communicants, - - - - -	50
Alms collected since May, 1844, - - - - -	\$90 73
Collections for Domestic Missions, - - - - -	65 00
For the support of the Episcopate, - - - - -	50 00
For Conventional assessment, - - - - -	10 00
For Sunday School Library, - - - - -	22 00

Since the last Convention, something like three hundred dollars have been raised and expended in repairs upon our church, which renders it now much more comfortable, as a house of public worship. Our Sunday School is not large, but the scholars and teachers are punctual in their attendance. We have, also, a promising bible class. Since our last Convention, this church has suffered much by removals from the place. It is owing to this, that the present number of communicants is not greater than formerly reported. But we are not discouraged,—we have the promise of the Divine blessing upon the faithful observance of the means of grace. Here is our hope and trust in all our labors to save souls and build up the Redeemer's Kingdom.

W. F. HALSEY, Rector.

TRINITY CHURCH, YAZOO CITY.

Families, (comprising adults 120, children 30, total 150,) about 50 or 60	
Baptisms—Adults 3, children 6, - - - - -	9
Confirmed, - - - - -	5
Communicants, about - - - - -	25
Catechumens—Boys 6, girls 6, - - - - -	12
Contributions—Alms at the Holy Communion, (two collections,) \$5 00	
For other purposes, - - - - -	\$2,500 00
Total, - - - - -	<hr/> \$2,505 00

Public services, regular, 19, including Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Four administrations of the Holy Eucharist.

REMARKS.—This Parish was organized in October last, (1845,) by the Rev. Willard Presbury, who kindly consented to take charge of it until a Rector should be called. Late in January last, I was requested to visit the Parish, and early in February, was called to the Rectorship of it, which was accepted, and in a few days I moved my family to Yazoo City. I found a church very conveniently arranged for the comfort of the congregation, together with all those other conveniences which bespeak a love of decency and order, so desirable in all churches. To Col. Joseph J. W. Niles, our present active Senior Warden, are we mainly indebted, under God, for the church accommodation in Yazoo City we now enjoy, and whose untiring,

unremitting and self-denying labors, have secured them to us. Trinity Church is supplied with a bell, organ, chandelier, and ground-glass globe lamps for the reading desk, pulpit and choir. It is carpeted throughout, with many of the seats cushioned, and has a commodious Vestry room in the rear. Trinity Church will contain about 200 persons, and our ordinary congregations number about 150. The late visitation of Bishop Otey, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Patterson, of Vicksburg, and the religious services performed by them, will form an epoch, not only in the history of our infant Parish, but also in the annals of our town, it being the first visitation of a Protestant Bishop.

There were seven or eight candidates for confirmation, five of whom were confirmed at the Bishop's visitation, and the others, it is expected, will be confirmed during the session of the Convention.

N. W. CAMP, Rector.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, PORT GIBSON.

Families,	- - - - -	6
Baptized persons—Adults 10, infants 6,	- - - - -	16
Communicants,	- - - - -	10
Funerals,	- - - - -	1
Marriages,	- - - - -	2
Confirmations,	- - - - -	2

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, GRAND GULF.

Families,	- - - - -	5
Baptized persons—Adults 7, infants 3,	- - - - -	10
Communicants,	- - - - -	5
Marriages,	- - - - -	1
Funerals,	- - - - -	3

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY, McCaleb SETTLEMENT.

Families,	- - - - -	10
Baptized persons—Adults 12, infants 6,	- - - - -	18
Communicants,	- - - - -	12
Funerals,	- - - - -	1
Confirmations,	- - - - -	4

AFRICAN CHURCH, NEAR PORT GIBSON.

Baptized persons—Adults 10, infants 49,	- - - - -	59
Communicants,	- - - - -	9
Confirmations,	- - - - -	9

Port Gibson, May 1st, 1846.

A. P. MERRILL, Rector

THE TREASURER of the Convention of the Diocese of Mississippi
in account with the Convention.

1844.

DR.

May 4. To cash received by the delegates from the following churches, in payment of the annual assessment for the year 1843, viz:

From St. Mark's, Raymond,	- - - - -	\$10 00
" St. Andrew's, Jackson,	- - - - -	10 00
" Christ Church, Holly Springs,	- - - - -	10 00
" St. Andrew's, Marshall county,	- - - - -	10 00
" St. Paul's, Columbus,	- - - - -	10 00
" Epiphany, Claiborne county,	- - - - -	10 00---\$60 00

1844—May 4.

Cr.

By am't of ass't for 1843, on Trinity Church, Natchez,	10 00
" " Christ Chureh, Jefferson,	10 00
" for '42 and '43, on Christ eh., Vicksburg,	20 00
" " St. Mary's, Laurel Hill,	20 00
" 1843, on St. Paul's, Woodville,	10 00
" 1842,* on St. Paul's, Columbus,	10 00---\$80 00

1845—May 8.

By am't of ass't for 1844, on Trinity ch., Natchez,	10 00
" " Christ eh., Jefferson,	10 00
" " Christ eh., Vieksburg,	10 00
" " St. Mary's, Laurel Hill,	10 00
" " St. Paul's, Woodville,	10 00
" " St. Paul's, Columbus,	10 00
" " St. Paul's, Grand Gulf,	10 00
" " St. John's, Pontotoc county,	10 00
" " St. Andrew's, Marshall county,	10 00
" " Christ eh., Holly Springs,	10 00
" " St. Andrew's, Jackson,	10 00
" " St. Mark's, Raymond,	10 00
" " Epiphany, Claiborne county,	10 00---130 00

Balance due the Treasurer on the 8th of May, 1845, \$210 00

The journal of 1844, was printed by the publishers of the "Southron" newspaper, at the City of Jaekson, for which they charged \$120. The Treasurer paid them \$60, collected by him, as appears on the debit side of his aecount for 1844, and forwarded his aecount and the voueher for the above payment, to the President of the Convention, expected to convene at Jackson, in the month of May last. The account and voucher, owing to the failure of that Convention, have been lost or miscarried, but the books of Buckner & Stanton, New Orleans, will exhibit the payment of my draft for the \$60, in favor of the "Southron" offiee. The balance of the printer's bill of \$120, remains unpaid, say \$60, with interest.

All which is respectfully submitted. JAS. S. JOHNSTON,

Treasurer of the Convention.

*NOTE.—The arrears of 1842, charged above to Columbus, are due as stated. Rev Mr. Halsey informed the undersigned, that the Vestry of St. Paul's provided the money to meet their assessment for that year, and he supposed it had been transmitted, but no delegates attended that year from Columbus, and the money, if sent by them, was never received by the Treasurer. J. S. J.

APPENDIX,
COMPRISING THE
CONSTITUTION AND CANONS
OF THE
DIOCESE OF MISSISSIPPI,
AND
ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
FOR THE
FORMATION OF PARISHES.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. The Church in the Diocese of Mississippi, as a constituent part of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America, accedes to the general constitution of that Church, and acknowledges its authority.

ART. 2. There shall be a stated Convention of the Church in this Diocese every year, at such time and place as may be fixed on by the preceding Convention. Special meetings of the Convention shall be called by the Bishop, when in his judgment the good of the Church require it, or when the standing committee shall request it; and in case of a vacancy in the Episcopate, the standing committee, on urgent reasons, may call a Special Convention.

ART. 3. The Convention shall be composed of clergymen and laymen. Every clergyman of the Church, of whatever order, having been a settled or regularly officiating minister in some Parish within this Diocese, for the space of six calendar months next preceding the meeting of the Convention; or a president, professor, tutor or instructor, in some college or seminary of learning, and performing clerical functions for the same period; or a missionary under the ecclesiastical authority of this Diocese, within this State, for the same period, and who, for the same space of time, has been employed in performing the duties of his station, shall have a seat and vote in the Convention: *Provided, however,* that no clergyman otherwise entitled to a seat and vote in the Convention, shall, by reason of advanced years, or infirm health, or temporary absence, be divested of such privilege.

Every Parish within this Diocese, in union with this Convention, shall be entitled to send to the Convention a lay delegate or delegates, not exceeding three, a certificate of whose appointment, signed by a warden or the secretary of the vestry of the Parish, shall, before their admission to seats, be laid before the Convention: *Provided*, that no person shall be competent to serve as a lay delegate, unless he be a stated worshipper in the Parish which he represents.

The delegation from each Parish shall be entitled, on a division, to but one vote.

ART. 4. New Parishes may be admitted into union with this Convention, on motion, by a majority of votes: *Provided*, they shall have laid before the Convention written evidence, subscribed by the wardens and vestry, that they are duly organized, and accede to the constitution and canons of this Church.

ART. 5. The Bishop of the Diocese shall be the President of the Convention; but during a vacancy in the Episcopate, or absence of the Bishop, the members shall elect a President from among the presbyters.

ART. 6. A Secretary and a Treasurer shall be chosen upon the assembling of the Annual Convention, from among the members thereof, who shall remain in office until the meeting of the next Annual Convention.

ART. 7. The members of the Convention, present on due notification, and consisting of not less than three clergymen, and lay delegates from three parishes, shall constitute a quorum to transact the regular business of the Convention. The clergy and lay delegates shall deliberate as one body, and vote as such, except when a division is called for, in which case a concurrence of both orders shall be necessary to carry any measure. All elections shall be by ballot.

ART. 8. This constitution shall not be subject to alteration in any article, except at the annual meetings of the Convention; nor unless such alteration shall have been proposed at least one annual meeting previous to its adoption.

CANON I.

OF THE ADMISSION OF CHURCHES.

SEC. 1. Whenever any number of persons shall associate to form an Episcopal congregation, they shall adopt articles of association for their government, in which they shall acknowledge and accede to the constitution, canons, doctrine, discipline and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, and the constitution and canons of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Mississippi; they shall assume a suitable name by which their Church or Parish shall be designated, and appoint not less than three nor more than eleven vestrymen and two wardens. A certified copy of the articles of association, and of the proceedings at their adoption, shall then be laid before the Convention, and if approved by that body, delegates from that congregation or Parish, may take seats in the Convention; and the congregation shall be considered as united to the Convention, and subject to its decisions.

SEC. 2. Every Parish so organized shall annually, on Easter Monday, or as soon afterwards as may be, elect the same number of vestrymen, who shall, as soon as may be upon their election, assemble and appoint two wardens, a register and treasurer.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the Rector, agreeably to the ancient usage of the Church, to preside in all parish and vestry meetings, but in case of his absence, one of the wardens shall preside.

CANON II.

In compliance with the fourth canon of the General Convention, a standing committee, comprising an equal number of presbyters and laymen, shall be elected at each Annual Convention. Any vacancy occurring in this committee may be filled by the unanimous vote of the remaining members. They shall keep full minutes of their proceedings, which shall be laid on the table of each Annual Convention, and read therein.

CANON III.

OF THE TRIAL OF CLERGYMEN.

SEC. 1. The trial of a clergyman of this Diocese shall be on presentment made to the Bishop, or if there be no Bishop, to the

standing committee, in writing, signed by the party making it ; and every presentment of a clergyman shall be either by the Convention of the Diocese, by the vestry and church-wardens of the Parish to which such clergymen may belong, or by one or more presbyters of the Church.

SEC. 2. In all cases of presentment, contemplated by the constitution and canons of the General Convention, or by those of this Diocese, a copy of the charge or charges and specifications, together with a citation to appear and answer, shall be served upon the party accused, in the manner hereinafter provided, with all convenient speed.

SEC. 3. The regular place of trial, and the office for the record of all ecclesiastical proceedings, shall be the house of the Bishop ; but if there be no Bishop, the standing committee shall appoint the place for these purposes ; and the Bishop, by and with the concurrence of his council of advice, may appoint any place within his Diocese for the trial, if there be any special reasons moving him thereto.

SEC. 4. All testimony adduced upon the trial shall be in writing, taken on due notice to the parties, either by a commissary appointed for that purpose by the ecclesiastical authority, or in the manner of commissions or depositions in civil cases. But this provision shall not prevent the appearance of witnesses, and the hearing of their testimony on the trial, whenever it shall be preferred by either party.

SEC. 5. Advocates or proctors shall be allowed on both sides, at the pleasure of the parties, provided they are clergymen, canonically resident in the Diocese, or laymen who have been communicants of some Parish of the same, at least two years before the trial.

SEC. 6. The Bishop shall preside upon the trial as judge, and not less than three presbyters shall be assessors with him, the names of which presbyters shall be selected by the party accused out of a list of six, who shall be unconnected by relationship or marriage, and can declare that they have not expressed an opinion as to his guilt or innocence. But if there be not so many presbyters in the Diocese, then the standing committee shall fill up

said list with the names of all the presbyters therein ; and if the accused shall neglect or refuse to make his selection, the standing committee shall elect for him. On the verdict of a majority of these assessors, the Bishop may rest his judgment in the case ; or, in case of conviction, may, if he think proper, order a new trial, and the sentence which he pronounces shall be delivered and recorded before the rising of the court : *Provided always, nevertheless,* that if the Bishop be related to the accused, or if he be a party concerned, he may, with the advice and consent of the standing committee, request some neighboring Bishop to preside upon the trial. And if the Diocese be vacant, the standing committee shall request the services of such Bishop as they may find most convenient.

SEC. 7. All citations and notices in any ecclesiastical proceeding, whether to parties or witnesses, may be served either personally or by leaving a copy thereof at their residences respectively ; the time between the day of service and the day of appearance being not less than twenty days over and above the ordinary time required to travel to the place of appearance. And in case there is reason to believe that a minister against whom any ecclesiastical proceedings have been instituted, has departed from the United States, or that the place of his sojourn cannot be conveniently ascertained, then it shall be sufficient to have a copy of the citation published three times in some newspaper printed at the seat of government of the State in which he last resided, and also three times in some newspaper printed at the seat of government of the State in which he is cited to appear, at least six months before the day of appearance.

SEC. 8. The Bishop may be presented for trial, for any alledged misconduct, by the Convention, the vote of two thirds of each order, clerical and lay, being necessary for the same ; and whenever the Convention shall decide that the Bishop be presented, a copy of the charges and specifications shall be delivered to him, (together with the names of six Bishops of this Church,) and if the Bishop shall fail to notify his election of the three by whom he will be tried, within sixty days, then the standing committee may select any three of said Bishops, who, when so elected, shall regulate the time and place and mode of trial.

SEC. 9. In all cases of presentment, whether of Bishops or other ministers, where the party accused shall neglect or refuse to appear, sentence of suspension shall be passed for contumacy; which sentence shall continue in force until the party consents to a regular trial.

CANON IV.

It shall be the business of the standing committee, when informed by the vestry of either of the Churches in this Diocese, that such Church is not provided with a minister, (in which information, the means which the Church has for supporting a ministry shall be stated,) diligently to inquire for and recommend to the vestry giving such information a proper person to officiate in the said Church, and they shall report to the Convention, at each annual meeting, what information of vacancies they have received, and their proceedings thereon.

CANON V.

In the election of a Bishop, the clergy and laity and shall vote separately, (the clergy individually, and the laity by congregation,) and the concurrence of a majority of each order shall be necessary to constitute a decision.

CANON VI.

OF DELEGATES TO THE GENERAL CONVENTION.

The Convention at each annual meeting shall choose delegates to attend the General Convention; and should the delegation elected to represent this Diocese in General Convention be unable to attend, then the standing committee shall have power to appoint a delegate, or delegates, in behalf of this Diocese.

CANON VII.

In order to procure that full and accurate view of the state of the Church, which is required by canon xxix, of 1832, and canon vii, of 1835, of the General Convention, every Parish minister in this Diocese shall conform his register to the following form, and report to each Annual Convention on all the particulars thereof:

FORM OF PAROCHIAL REPORTS.

Date. The Rector (or minister) of — Church, at — county, reports to the Bishop (or Convention) of the Diocese, the following statement from the register of his Parish:

Families—Former number ;

Added the past year ; Total,

Baptized persons—Adults, former number ;

Added (white ; colored ;

Children, former number ;

Added (white ; colored ;

Total, adults and children,

Baptisms performed the past year—Adults, (white ; colored ;

Children, (white ; colored ;

Confirmed persons—Former number ;

Added the past year (white ; colored ;)

of whom were confirmed in this Parish by the

Bishop of . Total (or present number)

Communicants—Former number ;

Added the past year (white ; colored ;

Died ; removed ; suspended ;

Withdrawn ; present number ;

Marriages—(White ; colored ;)

Funerals—Parishioners ; others ; Total,

Catechumens—

Bible Classes—Numbers attending ;

S. S. Teachers—Male ; female ; Total,

“ *Scholars*.—Male ; female ; Total,

“ *Books*—

Church offerings—At the Lord’s Supper, \$, appropriated to .

For missions and education to the ministry; \$

Contributions—For parochial plans (specifying each) \$. To

general institutions, such as Domestic and Foreign

Missionary Societies, &c. \$

To other objects, (specifying them,) \$

To contingent fund of Convention for year, \$

State also what has been done under canon xxviii, *General Convention*, and generally “any other matters of fact which show the state of the Parish.”

CANON VIII.

PROVIDING FOR CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE CONVENTION.

SEC. I. The vestry of every Parish or congregation in this

Diocese shall pay to the Treasurer of the Convention, at each annual meeting thereof, a sum not less than ten dollars, to meet the contingent expenses of the Convention. And the Treasurer shall regularly charge the said sum on his books against each vestry, crediting the same with payments when made, and shall annually report to the Convention the state of his accounts against each Parish, which report shall be entered on the journals of each Convention.

SEC. 2. The Treasurer shall, at least one month previously to the meeting of every stated Convention, call upon such vestry to send the above amount, including arrearages, if there be any, by the hands of the delegates to the Convention.

CANON IX.

Any Parish in this Diocese which has omitted, or shall neglect or refuse to send a delegation or a report to the Convention, for two successive years, may be considered extinct, until it shall re-establish its connexion by a new application to the Convention.

FORM FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF NEW PARISHES.

We the subscribers assembled for the purpose of organizing a parish of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the town of —, county of —, and State of Mississippi, after due notice given, do hereby agree to form a Parish to be known by the name of — Church —; and as such do hereby acknowledge and accede to the doctrine, discipline and worship, the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and the Constitution and Canons of the same Church in the Diocese of Mississippi ; and we do accordingly now appoint — [not less than three nor more than eleven persons, naming them,] to be the first vestry of — Church ; and — [two persons, naming them] to be the first wardens, to continue in office until Easter Monday, A. D. —, and until others be chosen in their place : And an election of vestrymen shall hereafter be held on Easter Monday of each successive year, or as soon thereafter as may be.

Witness our hands at — County of — and State of Mississippi, this — day of — in the year of our Lord —.



